THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU/Ind-M.S. Tikait), U.P., the BKU (Lokhowal), Punjab and the Karnataka Farmers Association jointly organised a rally on 3rd March, 1993 to protest against the Dunkel proposals. This rally was attended by farmers and kisan leaders of various states. A resolution, demanding rejection of the Dunkel proposals was adopted at the rally.

(c) Analysis made by the Government shows that the Dunkel proposals on agriculture would create no problems for our agricultural policies in the short and medium terms, Government has sought changes, improvements and understandings to ensure that there are no problems in the long term also.

Surplus Staff in Export Inspection Agency

2394. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a substantial number of employees of the Export Inspection Agency would be rendered surplus in the department because of Government's decision to relax quality control and pre-shipment inspection of exporting commodities;

(b) if so, whether a detailed scheme has been prepared to absorb the effected employees elsewhere;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d) Pursuant to the Government policy of making the exporters responsible for meeting the foreign buyers' quality requirements the work load of the offices of the Export Inspection Agencies (FIAs) may get reduced, resulting in surplus manpower. The EIAs are an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Commerce of and the EIA personnel are not Goverment employees.

Absorption of EIA surplus personnel in Government departments/other Government inspection agencies or PSUs and other agencies has been considered and has not been found feasible.

Fixation of import export norms

2395. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fixation of import export noms or more export production is under active consideration of the Director General of Foreign Trade;

(b) if so, the details of the export products identified;

(c) whether Government propose to get import orders of such products from foreign firms; and

(d) if so, what effect?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):

(a) and (b) Fixation of input-output norms is a continuous process. As on date, 1908 noms have been standardized and published in the Official Gazete from time to time.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, standardized noms help individual exporters to import duty free inputs and export their products expeditiously.